S 316 and Karashar. Both placer and lode or vein gold are mined. Placer gold is mined in the Ili River, the Kashgar River, S [804] [433] Alintu River, etc. From 100 poods of ore, two to three zolotniks of gold are obtained (one pood : 16.38 kg. and one zolotnik: ninety-sixth part of a former Russian pound). One lode mine is said to have 1.6 ounces a ton. Placer gold is also found in Chinghai. Gold has been exploited systematically in both primitive and modern ways. Where water is available, gold is obtained by washing; where water is not available, by sifting the dirt in wind. The yearly gold output of the province is said to total 100,000 ounces. Gold mining operation in the Altai mountains has been on the increase since 1917 when some 10,000 miners extracted gold valued at over 60,000 taels. In 1942 S [439] thousands of mines were said to be operating in the district though most of the gold mined is reported to have gone to Soviet Russia. It is claimed that in the Altai Hou-kou field, a two and a half pound gold nugget was mined. Cherchen (Chieh-mo) and Keriya (Yü-tien) are the richest gold deposits of southern Sinkiang. It is said that gold is so plentiful in Sinkiang that all Moslem families have their own caches hidden N 316 away. Gold is panned at irregular intervals from the Hsi-ning and Ta-tung rivers and their tributaries in Kansu province. (See Table IX.)

S 135 c. Silver and Lead: Lead is most extensively distributed in Sinkiang; it is next only to copper in its wide spread.

Silver-lead ore is located in Burlutugai, near the Sairam Lake north of Kucheng and some other places. Lead content S [316] in the ore is up to thirty percent. Mining is carried on very primitively. Lead mining has been carried on at Wu-shih, Yenki, Wusu, Paicheng, and Kashih. At present, only the deposits at the last two places are being worked. Output is very low because of the backward working methods. Silver is much in evidence at Khotan and Karashar.

d. Aluminum and Bauxite

Rich aluminous ore deposits are located in the north of Kucha near Baldir, also in the vicinity of Yu-tien (Keriya) and some other places. In addition, bauxite from which aluminum is extracted, has been found at Ho-feng (Hishih-Tologai) in Sinkiang.

N 135 4. Non-metallic Minerals:

The important non-metallic minerals of Northwest China are salt and gypsum as well as jade and other precious stones.

a. Salt and gypsum.

Ninghsia of Kansu, Chinghai and Sinkiang are extraordinarily rich in salt. The numerous lakes and dried up lake basins provide the basic sodium salt. In eastern Alashan of former Ninghsia province, the Kilantai and the Charatai Dagasu are the most

3:Cable & French M-5 (1926) 1927 AF13 Northwest China
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Perhaps the most interesting *rencontre* of any was with Manchurians from Kulja in Ili. They owe their territory to the Emperor Chien Lung, who, in the course of the campaign he conducted on the North-West frontier of China in the eighteenth century, gave grants of land as rewards for faithful service to loyal soldiers. The Manchurian language is thus still spoken in Ili, although it has vanished from Manchuria, and copies of the Scriptures transcribed into that language by George Borrow for the British and Foriegn Bible Society, and which had lain useless (as it was reckoned to be a dead language), at last found their way through Mr. Hunter into the hands of the people who were able to read them. These are the descendants of the 'Solon' and 'Sibo' referred to in the chronicles of Chien Lung as the troops who were rewarded for their faithfulness, with land in the new colony. Thus, remnants of each of the races which have successively held Dzungaria are still to be found within its borders.

In the beginning of the Christian era the Huns held supremacy in Central Asia, and in the thirteenth century the marauding tribes from Mongolia burst all barriers and carried the Mongol Empire from the Yellow River to the Danube. At this time Nestorian Christianity had considerable hold in Asia, and under Kublai and Jenghiz Khan the Franciscan missionaries were welcome and given facilities to carry on their work, but with the destruction of the Mongol Empire owing to the incessant attacks of the Chinese, Christianity declined, and, under the Chinese policy of isolation, the missionaries were expelled, while the converts, having no Scriptures in their own language, and being dependent upon tradition for the understanding of the faith they professed, became submerged by heathen practices and gradually disappeared. On the other

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hand, Islamism, which had been temporarily repulsed by the Mongols, again closed in, so that Turkestan became one of the strongholds of the Moslem faith.

The trend of political events during the last few years has resulted in movements no less epoch-making than were the invasions of the Mongols and the Huns. A wave of race-consciousness and of national enthusiasm has swept over the peoples of Central Asia and caused them to hearken to any voice which has promised to secure them the liberty and self-determination they so much covet. 'The East is undergoing a concentrated process of adaptation which, with us, was spread over centuries, and the result is not so much *evolution* as *revolution*.'

The situation is pregnant with spiritual possibilities, for the old and the new are struggling fiercely, and that struggle will result in anarchy and lawlessness, unless the hearts of men be captured and re-created by the Christ Who alone makes men free.

The Church Militant is represented in the territory stretching from Suchow to Siberia by *one* Mission Station occupied by *two* men.

CHAPTER XXXVIII

TRAVELLING IN THE 'GREAT HEAT'

THE trying season known to the Chinese as Ta Shu—'Great Heat'—was upon us. Hami was indeed hot, and Mr. Hunter warned us that not until we reached the other side of the Tian Shan could we hope for any alleviation. From Hami two main trade-routes, known as the Nan Lu—'South Road'—and Peh Lu—'North Road'—run in the respective directions their names